

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A generally horizontal screw press for removing excess fluid from material; comprising:

a generally tubular body having a meshed surface; said body having a material inlet provided near a proximate end thereof;

an endless screw mounted in said tubular body; said endless screw including a generally conical shaft and a helicoidal blade mounted to said shaft;

a rear excess fluid outlet provided in said proximate end of said tubular body, said rear excess fluid outlet including a toroidal screen; and

a proximate end of said endless screw including at least one ~~scraper~~ blade assembly that is so mounted thereto as to be in near-contact with said toroidal screen;

whereby rotation of said endless screw induces a ~~scraping~~ cleaning action of said at least one blade assembly against said toroidal screen to thereby prevent said screen from becoming clogged.

Claim 2 (original): A screw press as recited in claim 1, wherein said rear excess fluid outlet includes a meshed surface to allow the excess fluid to egress the screw press.

Claim 3 (original): A screw press as recited in claim 1, wherein said rear excess fluid outlet is toroidal.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A screw press as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one ~~scraper~~ blade assembly includes a support mounted to the endless screw and a ~~scraper~~ blade movably mounted to said support.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A screw press as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one ~~scraper~~ blade assembly includes three ~~scraper~~ blade assemblies.

Claims 6-23 (canceled).